

Examiner's Amendment and Reasons for Allowance

1. Applicant's amendments filed June 30, 2011 are acknowledged. Claims 1-28 have been cancelled, and claims 29-37 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Bowen on 9/21/2011.
4. The application has been amended as follows:
5. Amend claim 29 as follows: A dishwasher comprising:
a washing container to retain therein objects to be washed by the dishwasher;
and
a system to dry objects to be washed, the system including a heater to heat at least part of the air present in the dishwasher and a humidity sensor to detect the humidity of at least part of the air present in the dishwasher,
wherein the system for drying the objects to be washed includes a display to indicate the humidity determined by the humidity sensor ~~in use~~ while the humidity sensor is sensing the humidity of air present in the dishwasher; and

wherein the system is switchable to an off position by an operator in an independent manner as a function of the humidity determined by the humidity sensor and indicated on the display.

6. Amend claim 32 as follows: The dishwasher according to claim 29, wherein the humidity sensor is arranged in an upper area of the ~~washing container in the immediate proximity of the washed objects to be dried~~ dishwasher.

7. Amend claim 33 as follows: A method for cleaning and drying objects ~~to be washed in dishwashers~~ in a dishwasher, the method comprising:

subjecting the objects ~~to be washed~~ to at least one rinsing process;

after the at least one rinsing process, subjecting the objects ~~to be washed~~ to a drying process, wherein at least some of the air present in the dishwasher is heated by a heater;

detecting the humidity of at least some of the air present in the dishwasher by a humidity sensor during the drying process;

displaying the detected humidity on a display; and

~~allowing an operator to control~~ controlling the drying process in an independent manner as a function of the detected humidity and the humidity indicated on the display.

8. Amend claims 34, 35, 36, and 37 by replacing the phrase "to be washed in dishwashers" with the phrase "in a dishwasher" in each of those claims.

Reasons for Allowance

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the reviewed prior art does not teach or render obvious the subject matter recited by claims 29 or 33, the independent claims. With regard to claim 29, the most relevant prior art is the combination of Isagawa in view of Asai in view of Okamoto that was presented in the examiner's non-final rejection dated 5/11/2011. However, neither of the Isagawa, Asai, or Okamoto references teach a dishwasher having a display that indicates the humidity determined by a humidity sensor while the humidity sensor is sensing the humidity of air present in the dishwasher, and the reviewed prior art does not provide motivation to modify the combination of Isagawa in view of Asai in view of Okamoto to arrive at the claimed invention. With regard to claim 33, the most relevant prior art is the combination of Isagawa in view of Asai in view of Okamoto that was presented in the examiner's non-final rejection dated 5/11/2011. However, neither of the Isagawa, Asai, or Okamoto references teach a method wherein humidity detected by a humidity sensor during a drying process is displayed on a display, and the reviewed prior art does not provide motivation to modify the combination of Isagawa in view of Asai in view of Okamoto to arrive at the claimed invention.
10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RYAN COLEMAN whose telephone number is (571)270-7376. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9-5.
12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Kornakov can be reached on (571)272-1303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RLC/
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September 20, 2011
/Michael Kornakov/
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